

"G. B. S."—MAN OF LETTERS

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you said, "I will not call my own wife Britomart: it is not good taste" (instead of GOOD SENSE) was that your subsequent contemptuous reference to foundlings being drilled and disciplined into good taste (which to you is, of course, merely moral cowardice) made it especially disastrous. In the same way, by substituting the word crime for poverty in the last scene, you wiped out the whole play with a single word. Undershaft's whole political system is founded on his conception of poverty as a crime.

"If you want to keep the foundry in the family you had better find an eligible foundling and marry him to Barbara" sounds bad, because of the resemblance in sound between foundry and foundling. Better say "if you want to keep the torpedoes in the family," etc. Then there can be no mistake.

You are frightfully reckless about the exact words in passages of rather delicate comedy: for instance, the questioning of Stephen. To my ear there is a world of difference between saying "A philosopher, eh?" (your version) and "A philosopher, perhaps, eh?" (my version). And the whole speech beginning "Come, come; don't be so devilishly sulky; it's boyish," sounds like emptying an awkward sackful of words as fast as possible. Almost every sentence would bear a change of tone.

And now for the main point, on which the fate of the play depends. If you once weaken or soften after "Come, come, my daughter; don't make too much of your little tinpot tragedy," we are all lost. Undershaft must go over everybody like Niagara from that moment. There must be no sparing of Barbara—no quarter for any one. His energy must be proof against everybody and everything. If you get confused for a moment you will soften on such turns to Barbara as "You talk of your half-saved ruffian in West Ham" or "You know he will. Don't be a hypocrite, Barbara." There must be no check on the half-saved ruffian; on the contrary, you should keep a little in reserve for letting yourself go there. You must sweep everything before you until Lady B. knocks you off your perch for a moment; and even then you come up buoyant the next moment with your conundrum. It will be a bit of a feat to keep up this game through about 12 speeches, but you can do it; and I don't know any one else on the stage who could. Conviction and courage, that is what he must be full of, and there is no room for anything smaller or prettier. So put your last farthing on these few pages and good luck to you.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW.

10 Adelphi Terrace, W. C.

My dear Calvert:

I see with disgust that the papers all say that your Undershaft was a magnificent piece of acting and "Major Barbara" a rottenly undramatic play, instead of pointing out that "Major Barbara" is a masterpiece and you the most infamous amateur that ever disgraced the boards.

Do let me put Cremlin into it. A man who could let the seven deadly sins go for nothing could sit on a hat without making an audience laugh. I have taken a box for Friday and had a hundred-weight of cabbages, dead cats, eggs and gingerbeer bottles stacked in it. Every

word you fluff, every speech you unact, I will shy something at you. Before you go on the stage I will insult you until your temper gets the better of your lines. You are an impostor, a sluggard, a block-head, a shirk, a maligner, and the worst

actor that ever lived or ever will live. I will apologize to the public for engaging you. I will tell your mother of you. Barker played you off the stage; Cremlin dwarfed you; Bill annihilated you; Clare Greet took all eyes from you. If you do

not recover yourself next time, a thunder-bolt will end you. If you are too lazy to study the lines, I'll coach you in them. That last act MUST be saved, or I'll withdraw the play and cut you off with a shilling. Yours ever. G. B. S.

## The Censors

have given their decision against the great moral picture

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They have decreed in their arbitrary manner that two complete reels shall be eliminated, thus destroying the story and the moral influence which the picture in its entirety conveys.

### THE FRANKLIN FILM MANUFACTURING CORPORATION

has appealed to the Common Pleas Court from the decision of the censors and is determined if necessary to carry the fight to the Supreme Court, so that the picture may be presented as intended by the author, or not at all.

The public will be informed as to the future developments.



EMMA DUNN  
Coming to the Broad in "Her Price."

### THE MOVIE NUT!

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